

Appl. No. 09/866,135
Amdt. Dated September 21, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 21, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P11102-2/37943-411C1
EUS/J/P/05-6171

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a first node, a communication, the communication including data information and signaling information;

sending, by the first node, the signaling information to a second node;

processing, by the second node, the signaling information to produce at least one routing instruction;

sending, by the second node, the at least one routing instruction to the first node; and

sending, by the first node, the data information to the second node responsive to the at least one routing instruction; and

wherein the first node includes a broadband switching fabric and the second node includes a narrowband switching fabric and a switching intelligence.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of:

forwarding, by the second node, the communication to another node.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein said step of sending, by the first node, the signaling information to a second node comprises the step of sending, by the first node, the signaling information to the second node over a

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EUS/WP/05-6171

first link, and wherein said step of sending, by the first node, the data information to the second node responsive to the at least one routing instruction comprises the step of sending, by the first node, the data information to the second node over a second link.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 45 ~~claim 49~~, wherein the first node relies on the switching intelligence of the second node by responding to routing instructions.

51-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) A system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node including switching intelligence;

a plurality of second nodes, each second node of said plurality of second nodes including broadband switching fabric;

an interworking entity, said interworking entity operatively connectable to said first node and said plurality of second nodes, said interworking entity adapted to receive data in a first format from said first node, map the received data into a second format interpretable by said plurality of second nodes, and send the mapped data to at least one second node of said plurality of second nodes; and

wherein said interworking entity thereby enables said plurality of second nodes to be controlled, at least partially, by the switching intelligence of said first node.

63. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein said first node is comprised of a telecommunications node, said telecommunications node including narrowband switching fabric.

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EUS/J/P/05-6171

64. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein said interworking entity comprises a third node between said first node and said plurality of second nodes.
65. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein said interworking entity is at least one of part of and co-located with a second node of said plurality of second nodes.
66. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein said interworking entity is further adapted to emulate an interface for a synchronous transfer mode (STM)-based node with respect to said first node.
67. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein said plurality of second nodes comprise at least part of a broadband network.
68. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 67, wherein each second node of said plurality of second nodes is adapted to communicate signaling information and data information over the broadband network and to convert broadband information into another media type.
69. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 67, wherein the mapped data comprises instructions for the at least one second node to establish a communication path through at least a portion of the broadband network.
70. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein the received data comprises at least one first network address, and the mapped data comprises at least one second network address.
71. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 70, wherein the at least one first network address comprises at least one trunk connection.

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72. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 70, wherein the at least one second network address comprises at least one asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) identifier.